



### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

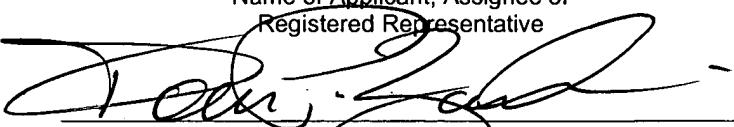
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 30, 2004

Date of Deposit

Dominic P. Zanfardino

Name of Applicant, Assignee or  
Registered Representative



Signature

January 30, 2004

Date of Signature

Our Case No.: 10000/212

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

David M. Hardin et al.

Serial No.: 10/699,487

Filing Date: October 31, 2003

For: HANDLE FOR MEDICAL  
DEVICES, AND MEDICAL DEVICE  
ASSEMBLIES INCLUDING A  
HANDLE

Examiner: N/A

Group Art Unit No.: N/A

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

The references now cited are the following:

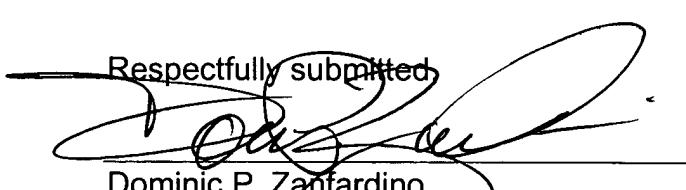
No.	Date	Name
US 6,423,074 B1	07/23/02	Chen
US 5,127,419	07/07/92	Kaldany
US 6,283,951 B1	09/04/01	Flaherty et al.
US 2002/0002349 A1	01/03/02	Flaherty et al.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

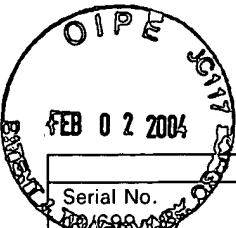
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dominic P. Zanfardino  
Registration No. 36,068  
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. Box 10395  
Chicago, IL 60610  
(312) 321-4200



TRANSMITTAL LETTER			Case No. 10000/212
Serial No. 10000/212	Filing Date October 31, 2003	Examiner	Group Art Unit
Inventor(s) David M. Hardin et al.			
Title of Invention HANDLE FOR MEDICAL DEVICES, AND MEDICAL DEVICE ASSEMBLIES INCLUDING A HANDLE			

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate), PTO Form 1449.

Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR § 1.27 has been established by verified statement previously submitted.

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

Petition for a \_\_\_\_\_ month extension of time.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

		Small Entity		Other Than Small Entity	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus		x \$9 =	
Indep.		Minus		x 43 =	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim				+ \$145 =	
				Total add'l fee	\$

Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 (BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

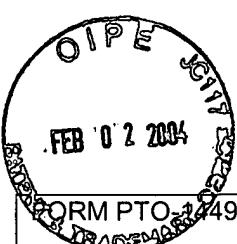
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 01/30/04.

Date: January 30, 2004

Signature:



FORM PTO-1449 (use several sheets if necessary)	SERIAL NO. 10/699,487	CASE NO. 10000/212
<b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	FILING DATE October 31, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT
	APPLICANT(S): David M. Hardin et al.	

**REFERENCE DESIGNATION**      **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A1	6,423,074 B1	07/23/02	Chen		
A2	5,127,419	07/07/92	Kaldany		
A3	6,283,951 B1	09/04/01	Flaherty et al.		
A4	2002/0002349A1	01/03/02	Flaherty et al.		
A5					
A6					
A7					
A8					
A9					
A10					
A11					
A12					
A13					

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
A14					
A15					
A16					
A17					
A18					

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS <small>(Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.)</small>
A19	
A20	
A21	
A22	
A23	
A24	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.